

REMARKS

As requested in the Office Action, Applicants have amended FIG. 3 to show a reference number of 500 for the helical spring. Applicants have also added reference number 112 to FIG. 1, which was inadvertently omitted. No new matter is involved.

Claims 2, 3, 4/2 and 4/3 were indicated as allowable in the office Action if rewritten in independent form. Claim 2 has been amended to be independent, with Claim 3 dependent thereon, and Claim 4 amended to depend from only Claims 2 or 3. Claims 2, 3 and 4 are thus believed to be in allowable form.

Claim 5 has been added which is original Claim 4 made dependent solely on Claim 1.

As now amended, Claim 1 is to an optical connector socket that has a body with a socket-side optical device installed therein and an insertion section to which a connected optical connector plug is inserted. A cover is provided on the body that has an opening section communicating with the insertion section. A shutter is arranged between the body and the cover, for opening and closing the opening section of the cover that opens inwardly into the body. An elastic member is provided that always elastically urges the shutter in a closing direction, with the opening section having an outside dimension greater than the outside dimension of the optical connector plug inserted to the cover and smaller than the outside dimension of the shutter.

Such an arrangement is not taught or suggested in the cited reference.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **10/617,713**
Reply to OA dated September 9, 2004

AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figs. 1 and 3.

Claims 1 and 4/1 (now 5) have been rejected as anticipated by Roth (U.S. 6,079,881) and as obvious in view of a combination of Roth and Yang (U.S. 6,652,152). Reconsideration and removal of these rejections are respectfully requested in view of the present amendment to Claim 1 and the following remarks.

In the Office Action, it is alleged that Roth shows an optical connector socket having a body (24) with an insertion section (unnumbered), a cover (28) that is covered on the body with an opening section (32) communicating with the insertion section, a shutter (36) pivotally mounted to the cover for closing and opening a section of the cover and an elastic spring (56) that keeps the shutter (36) closed. The Office Action alleges that the opening section has an outside dimension greater than the outside dimension of the connector plug inserted into the cover and smaller than the outside dimension of the shutter. Specific direction is made to FIG. 3.

Applicants believe that the Office Action has mischaracterized Roth. While the Office Action refers to (28) in Roth as being a cover, that component is actually a front receptacle body as described in Col. 3 of Roth and not a cover (200) for a body (100) as specified in the present claimed invention.

In addition, the opening section (32) in Roth is not smaller than the outside dimension of the shutter (36) in both height and width as shown in FIG. 4 of Roth. In the Roth device, the shutter 36 is mounted to a cover 28 for closing and opening an opening section 32 of a cover (or front receptacle body) 28 from the outside. The particular dimensions of the opening section (21) relative to the connector plug (B) and the shutter (300) in the present claims 1 and 5 enables the shutter to

be opened inwardly into the body on insertion of a connector plug and to seal the opening section upon removal of the plug. The Roth shutter is outwardly pivoted.

Claim 1 has thus been amended to more clearly provide an arrangement where a shutter is located between a body and a cover and that the cover opens inwardly into the body.


In view of the present amendments to Claims 1 and the above remarks, Applicants' Claims 1 and 5, in addition to Claims 2-4, are believed to be patentable and early action towards allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

FIG. 1

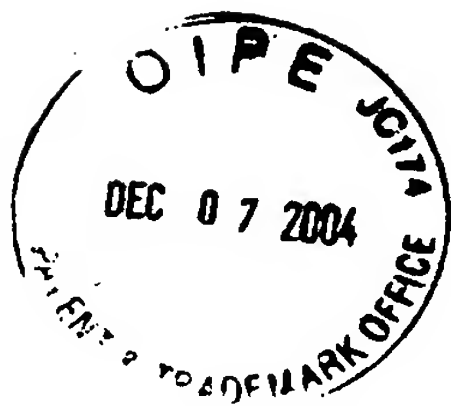
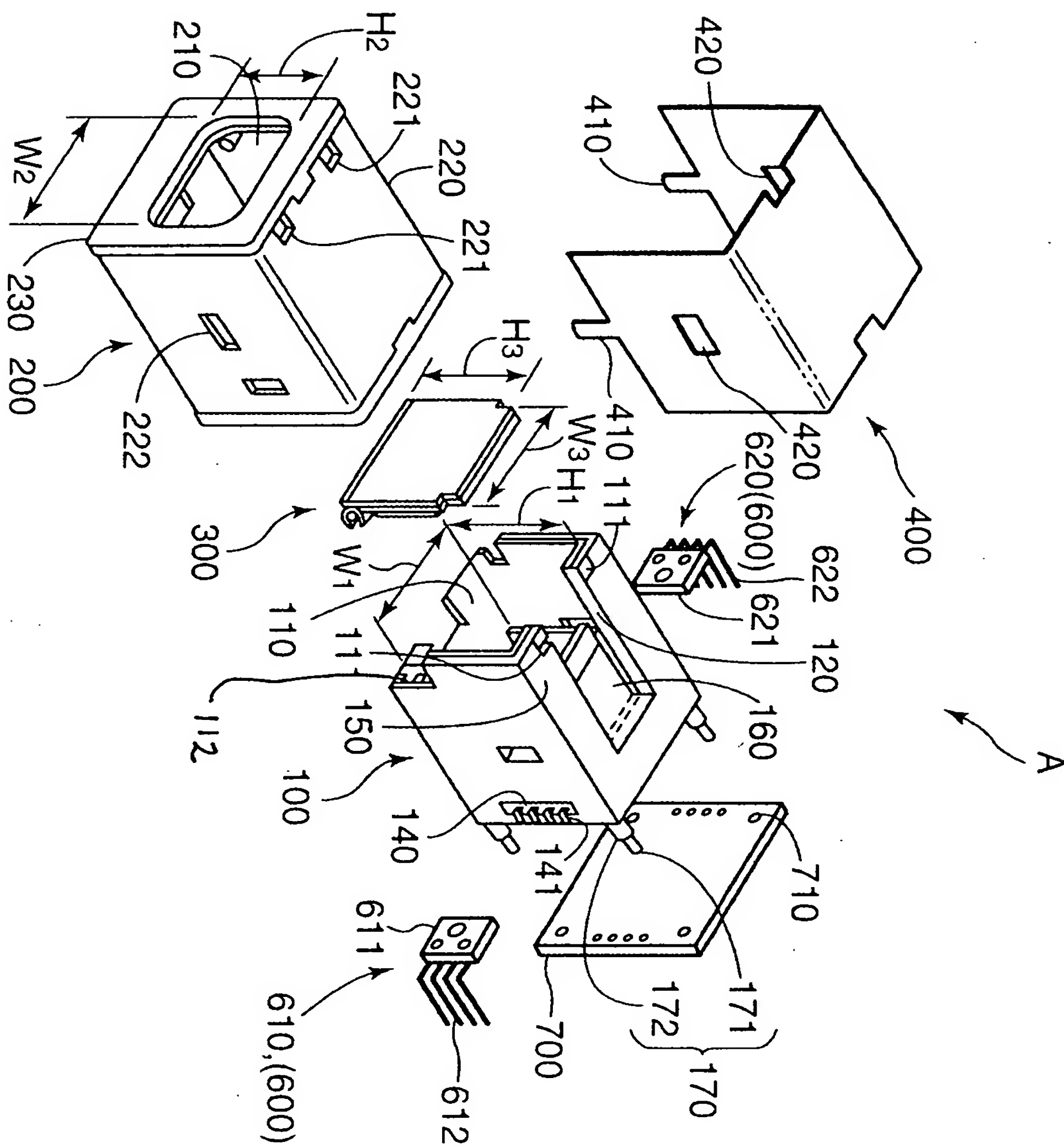


FIG. 3

U.S. SER. NO. 10/617,713
Reply to Office Action dated September 9, 2004
Inventor: OHBAYASHI, et al.
Docket No.: 030731
ANNOTATED SHEET SHOWING CHANGES

